United Nations S/2008/368

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 5 June 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1798 (2008), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 31 July 2008, and to the Council's presidential statements S/PRST/2008/7 and S/PRST/2008/12 on the same subject.

In the latter statement it was noted, inter alia, that "the continuation of Eritrea's obstructions towards UNMEE has reached a level so as to undermine the basis of the Mission's mandate and has compelled UNMEE to temporarily relocate", and that "the Security Council will, in the light of consultations with the parties, decide on the terms of a future United Nations engagement and on the future of UNMEE". In this regard, I would like to inform you that the temporary relocation of UNMEE military personnel from Eritrea to their home countries was completed on 19 May 2008. I understand that the Security Council is currently conducting consultations on the future of UNMEE, pursuant to S/PRST/2008/12.

Pending a decision of the Security Council on this issue, and in light of the prevailing situation, I would like to propose that the temporarily relocated troops be now considered as repatriated.

I should be grateful if you would bring this proposal to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-37167 (E) 100608

United Nations S/2008/369

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 13 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 29 February 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2008/140) and the letter dated 11 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council and its accompanying note (S/2008/175) concerning the processing of letters of credit pertaining to the oil-for-food programme.

I am pleased to inform you that the Working Group of representatives of the Government of Iraq, the Central Bank of Iraq and the Secretariat met in Amman from 1 to 5 May 2008, upon the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his above-mentioned letter. The Working Group reviewed the progress made in regard to the outstanding letters of credit and the processing of the authentication documents.

During the meeting of the Working Group, it was noted that the number of outstanding letters of credit had decreased and some progress had been made. In this regard, I have the honour to convey the suggestion of my Government that the deadline for providing the confirmations of arrival and resolving the disputes between the concerned ministries of Iraq and the sellers in the framework of the oil-for-food programme be extended to 30 June 2008 and that the situation be reviewed by the Working Group early in July on the basis of results achieved as of the proposed deadline.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq further suggests that the Secretariat provide a further progress report in July after the follow-up meeting of the Working Group.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq acknowledges the need to terminate the programme and all related issues; however, a proper termination is essential and will prevent future problems that may arise if the needed evaluation is not taken on a case-by-case basis. In this context, the Security Council may decide to defer its decision in this matter until after the meeting of the Working Group in July and to review the results of that meeting.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Al Bayati**
Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

08-37239 (E) 100608

United Nations S/2008/370

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 6 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I attach herewith the response of the Government of the Republic of Uganda to the allegations by the Monitoring Group on Somalia of arms dealing in Somalia involving some Uganda People's Defence Forces personnel (see annex).

I should be very grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Francis K. **Butagira**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-37245 (E) 110608

Annex to the letter dated 6 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

5 June 2008

Response of the Government of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations Monitoring Group's allegations of arms dealing in Somalia

On 2 April 2008, the United Nations Monitoring Group on Somalia established under Security Council resolution 751 (1992) presented a report on the state of compliance and effectiveness of the United Nations arms embargo on Somalia. The report contains numerous positive elements which, if adopted, could further enhance international efforts aimed at recreating and bringing peace to Somalia. Uganda, as the leading country in this effort, welcomes all actions aimed at achieving this primary objective.

The many positive elements in the report notwithstanding, Uganda finds the allegation that Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) personnel sold arms to insurgents totally untrue and outrageous and believes that it may prove detrimental to its valiant efforts in favour of peace in Somalia.

As indicated in the report, the Monitoring Group discussed this matter with various Ugandan officials, who indicated their serious concern at such conduct and behaviour and promised an immediate and thorough investigation. Indeed, this investigation was carried out. It was found that the allegations were false. It was also discovered that those rumours had been initiated by elements hostile to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). It would have been foolhardy for UPDF personnel to arm insurgents to whom they have lost colleagues.

Uganda therefore dismisses these allegations as falsehoods on the following basis:

1. It is not and shall never be the policy of the Government of Uganda, let alone that of UPDF, to sell arms to any group, whether inside or outside Somalia.

2. It is inconceivable that UPDF would sell arms and ammunition to groups opposed to its presence in Somalia, as such arms would only be turned against UPDF personnel.

3. The arms borne by the UPDF contingent in Somalia are serialized and fully accounted for, and the Ugandan contingent has never established an armoury or store that keeps what the Monitoring Group calls "Shabaab weapon caches".

4. Any act allegedly committed by any member of UPDF, if it is so established, would be taken as an individual act not sanctioned by either UPDF or the Government of Uganda and any such member, if found guilty of any such act would, after due process, face the full weight of the law so established to the maximum extent possible.

It is interesting, however, to observe that the allegations contained in the Group's report are very similar to those that had appeared earlier, in November 2007, on www.saacid.org, the website of the non-governmental organization SAACID, a group opposed to the deployment of AMISOM. It would appear that the Group simply picked those allegations and used them to produce its report without substantiating them and without giving due consideration to the negative impact the report would have on the African Union mission and the countries that have so far sacrificed and contributed troops to the noble cause of pacifying Mogadishu and, finally, Somalia as a whole.